

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An image processing method utilizing computer graphics in which an image at a higher drawing level is formed from a computer graphics image formed by computer graphics, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a particular drawing level from a plurality of drawing levels set in advance for a computer graphics algorithm based on at least one of an amount of computation processing, an amount of data and a display resolution;

executing a process of forming the computer graphics image by said computer graphics algorithm at the thus selected particular drawing level; and

performing processing by said computer graphics algorithm at a higher drawing level than said particular drawing level which was selected from said plurality of drawing levels based on editing data set in the process of forming said computer graphics image at said particular drawing level or based on said editing data and attached data thereby forming image data at said higher drawing level.

2. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said image at the higher drawing level is an image to be printed or an image to be displayed, and said image data at the higher drawing level is print image data or display image data.

3. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said image at the higher drawing level is an output image, said image data at the higher drawing level is output image data, and said processing by said computer graphics algorithm at the higher drawing level is performed in a process of outputting.

4. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein when said computer graphics image is formed, said particular drawing level is selected from said plurality of drawing levels for each image component in an imaged scene or for each processing operation performed for producing a specified particular effect on said computer graphics image.

5. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of computer graphics algorithms are further prepared, and a particular algorithm is selected from said plurality of computer graphics algorithms based on at least one of said amount of computation processing, said amount of data and said display resolution, and for the thus selected particular algorithm, said particular drawing level is selected from said plurality of drawing levels.

6. (original): The image processing method according to claim 5, wherein when said computer graphics image is formed, said particular algorithm is selected from said plurality of computer graphics algorithms for each image component in an imaged scene or for each

processing operation performed for producing a specified particular effect on said computer graphics image.

7. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the process of forming the computer graphics image at the particular drawing level is performed in a first image processor, whereas the processing by said computer graphics algorithm at the higher drawing level is performed with a different timing in a second image processor different from said first image processor.

8. (original): The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said first image processor is a personal computer and said second image processor is a host computer connected to the personal computer through a communication network.

9. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the process of forming the computer graphics image at the particular drawing level is performed in an image processor and the processing by said computer graphics algorithm at the higher drawing level is performed in the same image processor.

10. (original): The image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said image processor is a personal computer.

11. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein processing operations at different drawing levels including the process of forming the computer graphics image at the particular drawing level and the processing by said computer graphics algorithm at the higher drawing level are performed by sharing among a plurality of image processors interconnected through a communication network.

12. (original): The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of image processors are personal computers.

13. (original): The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein an image processor to be selected from said plurality of image processors for performing a processing operation at each of said different drawing levels and a timing applied for performing said processing operation are set in advance to said editing data or as a processing condition.

14 - 26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented): The image processing method of claim 1, wherein the higher drawing level is defined by a graphics quality.

28. (previously presented): The image processing method of claim 27, wherein the graphics quality comprises at least one of a resolution, number of polygons, ray processing, density scale resolution and an existence/nonexistence of reflected light.

29. (previously presented): The image processing method of claim 1 comprising the step of:

designating image editing data to form the computer graphics image.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the graphics quality is a resolution.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting of a drawing level is based on a display resolution.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the different timing represents different processing speeds.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of computer graphics algorithms levels are prepared,

wherein the plurality of drawing levels are prepared for each of the plurality of computer graphics algorithms and stored in a database on a personal computer, and

wherein the drawing levels are based on a display resolution.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein an image processing software for the computer graphics image is based on performance of a CPU of a personal computer forming the computer graphics image.

35. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting said particular drawing level from said plurality of drawing levels set in advance for a computer graphics algorithm is based on an amount of computation processing.

36. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting said particular drawing level from said plurality of drawing levels set in advance for a computer graphics algorithm is based on an amount of data.

37. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said executing the process of forming the computer graphics image by said computer graphics algorithm at the selected particular drawing level is done on a personal digital assistant (PDA).

38. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said executing the process of forming the computer graphics image by said computer

graphics algorithm at the selected particular drawing level is done on a first computer and said performing processing by said computer graphics algorithm at said higher drawing level is done on a second computer, separate from the first computer.

39. (new): The image processing method according to claim 4, wherein an image component is at least one of a structure, at least a part of a human figure, clothes, at least a part of a landscape and at least part of a texture of a surface of an object.

40. (new): The image processing method according to claim 4, wherein the specified particular effect is at least one of a shading of a surface of an image component based on irradiation of direct and/or reflected light, simulation of a physical phenomenon on the image component and a finish for the image component.

41. (new): The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein the specified particular effect is performed on one image component, on a plurality of image components or on the entire computer graphics image.

42. (new): The image processing method according to claim 6, wherein an image component is at least one of a structure, at least a part of a human figure, clothes, at least a part of a landscape and at least part of a texture of a surface of an object.

43. (new): The image processing method according to claim 6, wherein the specified particular effect is at least one of a shading of a surface of an image component based on irradiation of direct and/or reflected light, simulation of a physical phenomenon on the image component and a finish for the image component.

44. (new): The image processing method according to claim 43, wherein the specified particular effect is performed on one image component, on a plurality of image components or on the entire computer graphics image.